THE NEW MUSEUM IN BERLIN.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* makes some not very complimentary remarks on Herr Stüler's museum. He says,—"Outwardly the building is solid, cubical, and heavy. Taste is at a loss to imagine on what pretext the architect of such a discreet mass of stone could sanction the introduction of the tiny statues which lean against the divisions of the upper windows, except to draw attention to the almost clumsy baldness of the general building. Within, singularities no less singular give cause for wonder. Convenience may have dictated the arrangement of the museum, which consists of a huge staircase and several small rooms; but in these last the eye is rather teased than pleased by the resolute determination of getting rid of the ordinary form of ceiling, no matter at what price of oddity. The most inharmonious and grotesque arrangements of pillar, truss, and tracery filling up long and shallow semi-oval spaces, are employed, which recall unpleasantly those 'regions of sorrow,' the cabins of steamers, where the decorations, lavished to tempt passengers can blind only a child of Gotham to the real conditions of lodgement, need of strong support, want of space, and want of air. It would have been less novel, but wiser, to have introduced, as the Sansovinos and Palladios were content to do, the familiar coved and coffered ceiling, which lends itself so kindly to ornament whatever be its style. Then, the staircase is too grand in its scale to abide the admixture of puerilities, were they even in the style of Parthenon or Choragic monument, or of any other known Grecian example. Since no attempt at intricacy marks the whole ordinance of this staircase, the intrusion of the covered porch or tribune at the conjunction of the two flights of steps, can be considered only like the window-sculptures just mentioned—as an episode—which is an impertinence rather than a variety—a foppery, not a feature."

FALL OF HOUSE, BARNSLEY.—COOLNESS.—Last week the whole of the gable end of the Hare and Hounds Inn, fell down, fortunately without injuring any of the inmates. According to a local paper, a lodger sleeping in the room adjoining the wall, was not awoke by the noise, and on the landlord going to him and telling him to get up, as the house was falling, he made answer by saying, "It may fall then: I've paid for my bed, and I'll take good care that I have my sleep out." "Thus the lodger laid his wonted time, exposed to the weather and the gaze of a large number of persons that had been drawn there by the accident." This story reminds us of the man who being shaken up, and told that the house was on fire, turned round again to sleep, and said, "Well, you must speak to my wife; I don't meddle with household affairs." And of the other member of the same cool family who, when told in bed that his wife had expired, nestled under the clothes, and murmured, "Dear me! how sorry I shall be in the morning." There is really something grand in coolness of this description!

THE IRON TRADE.—Foreign orders, it is said, are accumulating, and together with speculative home demands, are producing more and more stir in the trade. A salutary check on over-production in the meantime seems to be felt in the want of coal, which, however, may tend still further to force up prices shortly. Colliers refuse to work even at advanced prices. Offered an increase from 3s. 9d. to 4s. a day, they demand 4s. 6d., and even where they work at an advance, like the slaves in Jamaica they take it easy, and will not work "so continuously" as they used to do, now that 3d. a day makes them more independent than heretofore. "The prosperity so largely shared by Staffordshire," says the *Birmingham Journal*, "seems to be general. In Wales and Scotland the utmost activity prevails; and in France we learn that the iron-works of Maubeuge and Aulnoye les Berlaimont are now fully employed. Upwards of four hundred men are engaged in extracting mineral near Avesnes. The foundry of M. Leclerc, near the former place, has received a large command for rails for the railways in the west of France; and that of M. René Hamoir has now on hand sufficient business to occupy the men for eighteen months." The *New York Tribune*, on the contrary, still complains of "the general depression of the iron manufacture in the States, and the severe losses encountered by those who have embarked in it," as if this were not altogether a past state of affairs. The same paper states that thousands of tons of native iron, so pure in the mine, as almost to be equal to pig-iron, will probably be shortly poured into the market from that wonderful copper region, Lake Superior.——A Glasgow shipowner, Mr. M'Gavin, is said to have discovered and patented a method of preparing iron plates for ship building, so as to prevent the adhesion of barnacles and other growths obstructive to the sailing power of iron ships.

IMPROVED SOLID BRASS TUBES.—A patent has been taken out by Mr. G. F. Muntz, jun. of Birmingham, for a method of manufacturing solid brass tubes, without joint or solder, for flues of locomotive, &c. The composition preferred by the patentee is sixty parts of best refined copper and thirty-eight parts of good zinc; and the first process is the casting of a tube shorter than required, in a peculiarly-formed mould. This tube is then brought to a temperature at least equal to boiling water, and its interior rinsed with a mixture of lime in water, with common salt. It is then at a red heat, passed through a pair of flat rolls, similar to those used for rolling flat bar-iron, which produces a bar of brass with rounded edges, but with a flat orifice throughout—the lime mixture preventing the adhesion of the top and bottom surfaces; and in this rolling the casting attains a considerable increase in length. One end of this is then sufficiently opened by the workman with a suitable tool to a distance in length of about 6 inches; and, being again brought to a red heat, is passed through grooved rollers over a proper-shaped mandrill. A tube, oval in section, is the result. Having again been passed heated through cylindrically grooved rollers over a circular mandrill, a finished tube is produced.

NEW SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH ROPES.—A new mode of protecting the conductors, according to the *Mechanics' Magazine*, has been invented by Mr. T. Allen, of Edinburgh. It consists simply in placing the protecting wires longitudinally, instead of spirally, as in the Dover and Calais rope. This is done with the view of enabling the whole to withstand a longitudinal strain, and prevent the core from snapping. In this there is some feasibility, but it is perhaps questionable whether wires so placed will "protect" the conductors otherwise so well; and, besides, the spiral arrangement in the Dover rope, if we recollect rightly, was very slight, and the allegation that the length of wire from this spiral is double what a straight wire will be, seems to us preposterous.

THE GRAVEYARD OF ST. MARY'S, NEWINGTON.—At a public meeting, held on the 9th inst. in the school-room of St. Mary's, it was unanimously resolved, with the concurrence of the rector and senior churchwarden, that the graveyard should be closed forthwith, and the provisions of the new Act adopted. A burial board was then nominated, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act.

MEMORIAL TO "THE DUKE" AT BRIGHTON.—It was resolved at a public meeting held at Brighton on 20th September last, "that the restoration and enlargement of the parish church, wherein his grace the Duke of Wellington at an early period of his life was wont to worship, would be an appropriate and enduring monument of gratitude and veneration for his memory;" and since that date a numerous and weighty list of subscriptions has been collected, which seems to leave no doubt of the complete accomplishment of the object in view. The Rev. H. M. Wagner subscribed 1,000*l.* at the meeting, and various sums of 100*l.* have since been added, together with numerous lesser subscriptions of from 50*l.* to 10*l.*, and a large sum in smaller contributions. Subscriptions are still received at the London and County Bank, and elsewhere.

GODSON'S SMOKE-CONSUMING FURNACE.—For some time back an economical form of patent furnace has been at work in various parts of the metropolis, of which it may be worth while to give a few particulars. Instead of consuming the smoke after it has escaped from the burning coal, in this case the coal is put into the furnace through a basket, with sliding top, below, which can be raised by lever power, and thrust the coal upwards into the heart of the fire below, so that, as it heats, the smoke enters the strongest part of the fire, and is immediately consumed. At Messrs. Sowerby and Co.'s distillery, in Aldersgate-street, it is said, an experiment was tried which proved an economy of 19½ per cent. in favour of this furnace, as against one of the ordinary construction. In both furnaces 9 cwt. 12 lb. of coal were consumed during two consecutive days, and while Godson's furnace vaporised 546½ gallons of water at a pressure of 3 lb. on the square inch, the other vaporised only 457 at the same pressure, being an excess of 89½ gallons.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE HAWKINS.—We have heard with great regret of the death of this gentleman, which took place on the 6th inst. quite unexpectedly. Mr. Hawkins was an excellent architectural draughtsman, for a long period chiefly engaged by Messrs. Day and Son, in lithographing the principal works of this character that have issued from their establishment. His pencil was peculiarly correct and delicate. One of his most important works is a series, still incomplete, of the ancient abbeys of Yorkshire, from sketches by Mr. W. Richardson. The architectural room of the Royal Academy frequently exhibited his skill in water-colour painting, as he was often employed by architects in colouring their designs. We lose him with sorrow.

ROAD MAKERS' DIFFERENCES.—Tenders for making roads at Peckham Rye:—

Yeoman	£2,762
Green	2,155
Rogers and Radley	1,696
King	1,550
Coker and Brixton	1,445
Raden	1,440
Cole	1,320

I BEG to hand you the particulars of tenders sent in for making roads and executing earthwork on the estate of the second Tower Hamlets Freehold Land Society, at Old Ford, Bow, Middlesex:—

Hewes	£1,200
Lake	1,010
Pound and Hudson	946
Toole	765
Green	698
Brown	625
Coker	607
Drummond	599
Wright and Broom	485
King and Halliwell	475
Baum (accepted)	390

A. B.

REPAIR OF ST. MARY'S, NEWINGTON.—Pray insert the tenders delivered for painters' and other works at the church of St. Mary, Newington. Mr. Edmonds, surveyor. P.

Thorpe	£560	0	0
Ambler	369	0	0
Carpenter	340	0	0
Thomas	330	0	0
Murphy	298	10	0
Suter	298	0	0
Fisher	297	0	0
Humphreys	284	10	0
Clare	280	0	0
Gregory	269	0	0
Crawford	260	0	0
Wells	256	0	0
Morris	248	16	0
Thornhill	240	10	0
Barnes	215	0	0

TENDERS

For chapel, vestry, and school, Islington. Mr. J. M'Landsborough, architect. Quantities supplied:—

Lucas	£2,583 0 0
Jay	2,507 0 0
Reading	2,460 0 0
Battenbury	2,402 0 0
Elston	2,361 0 0
Rowland and Evens	2,256 0 0
R. Hughes	2,213 0 0
W. F. Cooper	2,186 0 0
Smith	2,178 0 0
Piper	2,088 0 0
Hopkins and Roberts	1,980 0 0

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